

# 托卡马克边界微观湍流的数值模拟

## Numerical Simulations of Micro-turbulence in Tokamak Edge

Hua-sheng XIE (谢华生, huashengxie@gmail.com)  
slight update at: September 15, 2015

Institute for Fusion Theory and Simulation, Department of Physics, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou  
310027, P.R.China

# 博士学位答辩，浙江大学物理系，等离子体物理 Sep. 08, 2015, Hangzhou



Advisor: Prof. Yong XIAO (肖湧)

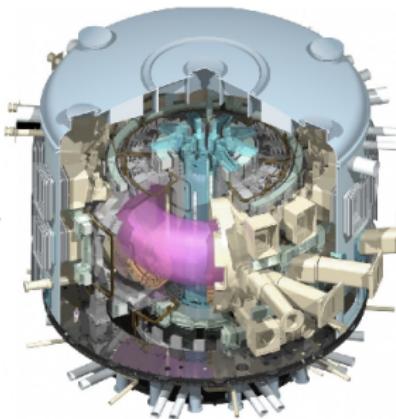
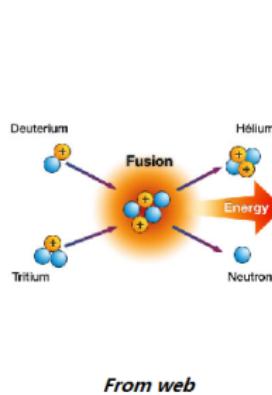
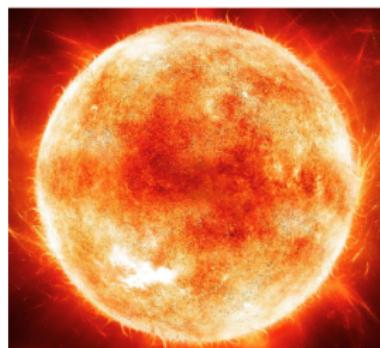
## Content

- 1 Introduction
    - Motivations
    - Background
  - 2 Edge Electrostatic Physics (Main)
    - Background and initial setups
    - Linear results and eigen theory
    - Nonlinear results
  - 3 Electromagnetic Physics (Preliminary)
    - Ideal MHD
    - Kinetic ballooning mode
  - 4 Summary& Future
    - Summary
    - Future works

## I. Motivations & Background

## Fusion on the Sun ... and the Earth...

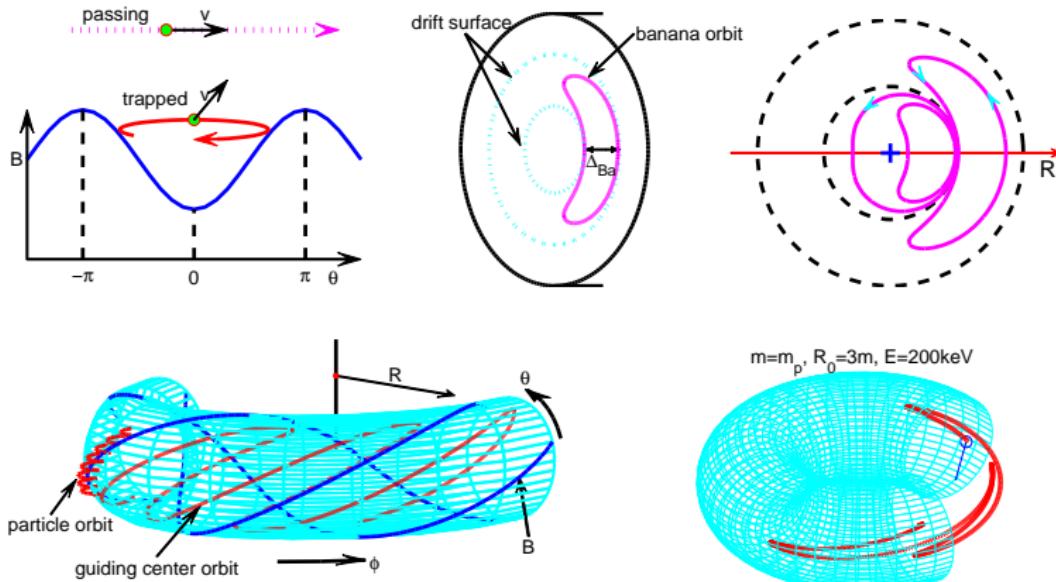
- Controlled fusion → to solve the energy problem
  - High temperature ( $> 1\text{keV}$ ) → plasma (charged particles + e.m. field)
  - Equations: kinetic (Vlasov/Boltzmann) + Maxwell (e.m.) / Poisson (e.s.)



Here, we study **tokamak** (magnetic confinement) plasma.

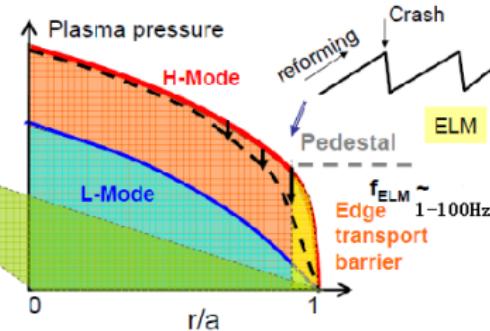
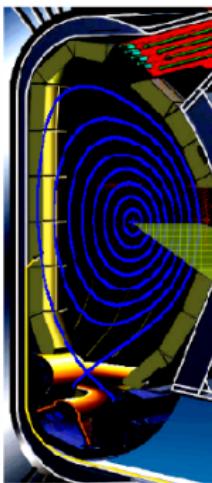
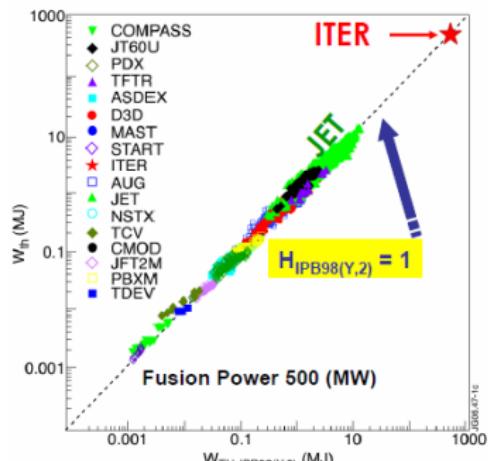
## Magnetic confinement

Charged particles **well confinement** in tokamak equilibrium magnetic field



**Collision / perturbation (turbulence) lead transport**

## H-mode operation of tokamak

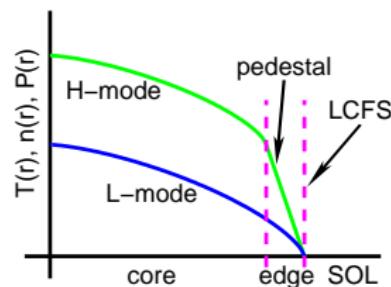
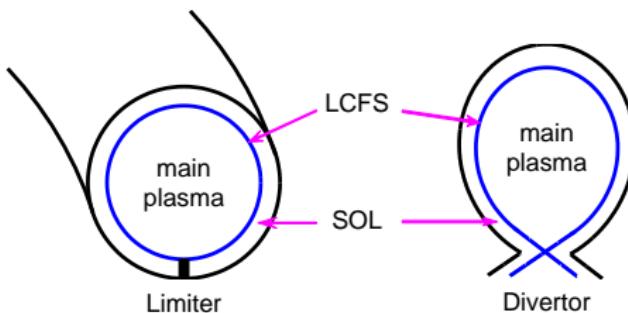


*Y. F. Liang, 4TH ITER International Summer School, Austin, Texas USA, 2010*

- H-mode (Wagner *et al.*, 1982) is ITER baseline scenario
  - Energy stored in H-mode is **twice** or more than L-mode
  - Two '**phases**': L-mode - weak gradient; H-mode - strong gradient

First principle studies of the edge physics still lacking

Physics: a. core - comprehensively studied; b. edge - current frontier; c. SOL - more complicated (atom/molecule process)

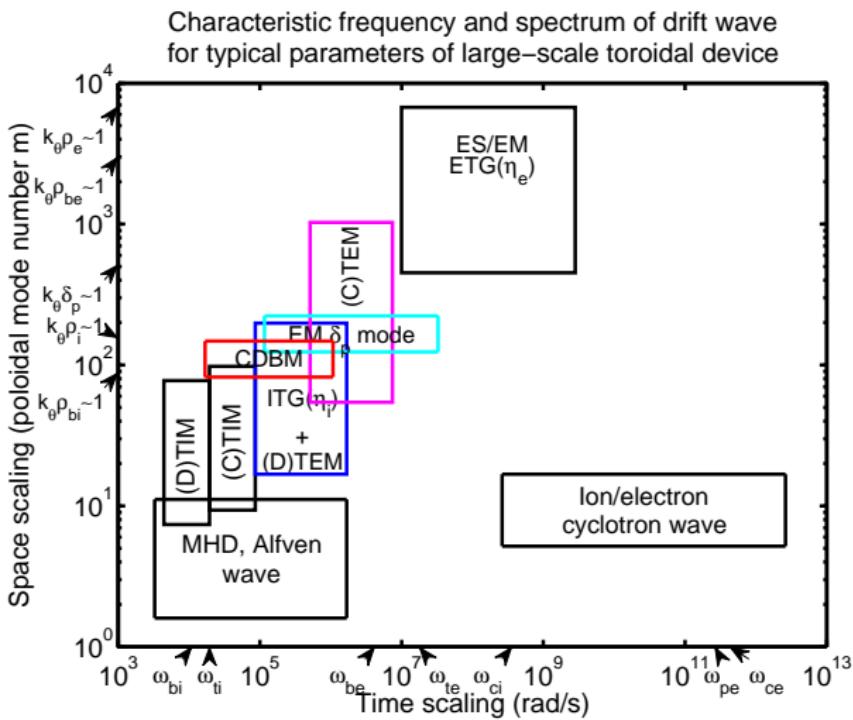


## Existed studies of edge H-mode and ELM

- **Kinetic:** beginning stage (**GYRO**, **GTC**, **GEM**, ...), challenged
  - Fluid models: BOUT++, JOREK, ... → no kinetic physics
  - Simplified models (e.g., ODEs): bifurcation (Itoh-Itoh), prey-predator (Diamond) → qualitative at most

⇒ We focus on edge kinetic (first principle) physics

# Edge micro-instabilities / turbulence



Edge: **ITG, TEM, KBM, ...** (temperature/pressure gradient, trapped particles)

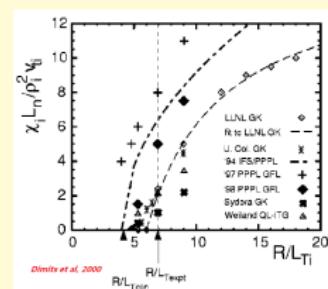
## II. Edge Electrostatic Physics (Main)

Here and below, simulations are mainly based on GTC code.  
 Linear theories are mainly based on eigen solutions.

## 1. Background and initial setups

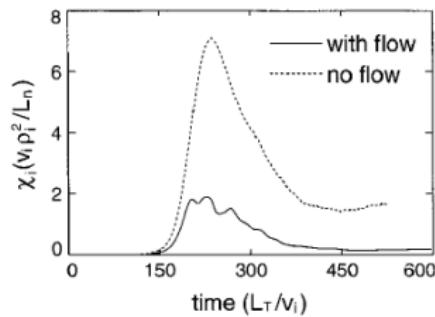
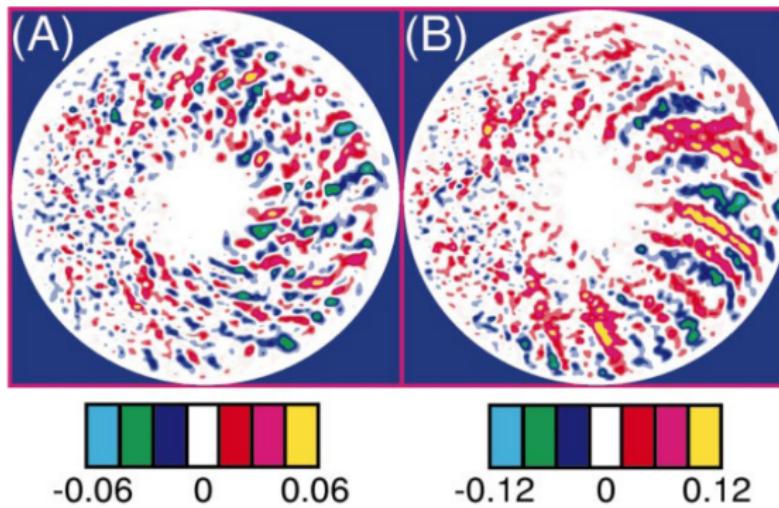
Define heat flux  $q_j = \int dv^3 (\frac{1}{2}m_j v^2 - \frac{3}{2}T_j) \delta v_r \delta f_j \equiv n_j \chi_j \nabla T_j$ ,  $j = i, e$ . H-mode unknown physics issues:

- L-H transition is still not fully understood.
  - How will transport coefficient  $\chi_j$  changes with  $\nabla T_j$  increasing? Does mixing length ( $D \sim l_c^2/\tau_c$ ) estimation really valid? Or, how to estimate  $l_c$  and  $\tau_c$ ? A simplest one  $D \sim (\gamma_k/k_{\perp}^2) \propto \gamma_k$ . Taroni-Bohm (Horton2012 book) gives  $\chi_e \propto \nabla T_e$ .
  - Is zonal flow still important?
  - How important the mode coupling can be in the



Next, we focuses on **edge electrostatic** physics.

Physics understandings in L-mode (weak gradient) still hold in H-mode strong gradient stage?



*Lin, Z. et al., Science, 1998, 281, 1835  
Turbulent Transport Reduction by Zonal Flows:  
Massively Parallel Simulations*

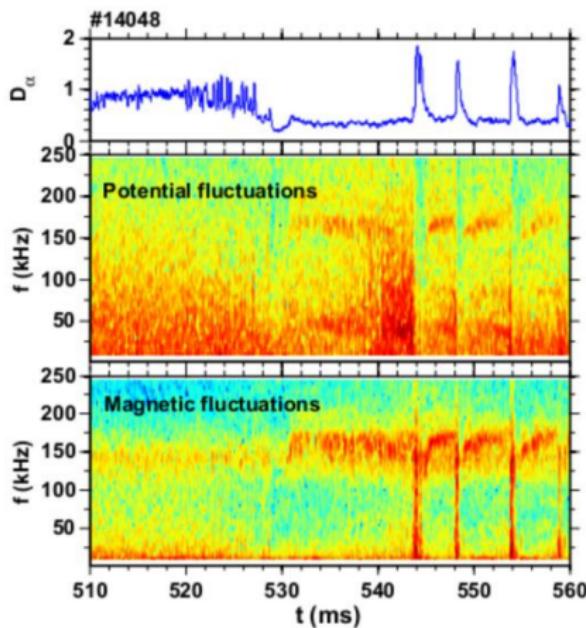
Also for H-mode?

It is believed that (at least in **L-mode** stage or **core** plasmas):

- **Zonal flow** important to reduce transport (eg., Chen01, Waltz08)
  - **Mode coupling** important for nonlinear cascading (eg., Lin05, Chen05)
  - Larger gradient → **larger** transport coefficients

## HL-2A H-mode experiments

Typical HL-2A H-mode exp. signal (#14048, from D. F. Kong)



- ES: low frequency → **this work**
  - EM: high frequency → (my) simulations not succeed yet,  $f^{GTC} \gg f^{\text{exp.}}$

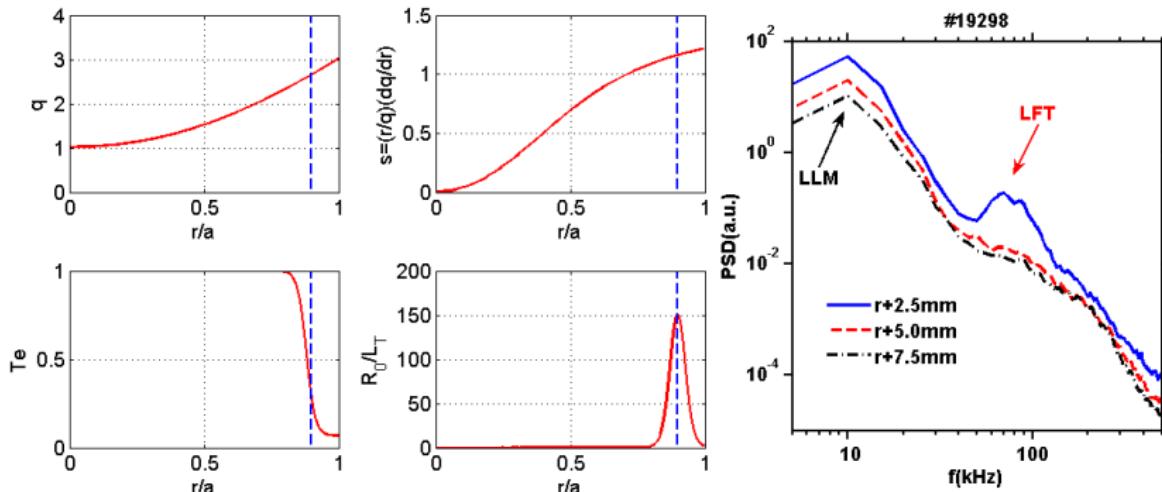
## Background and initial setups

## GTC edge simulation parameters

GTC edge simulation parameters are taken from recent H-mode exp. of HL-2A (#19298, from D. F. Kong) HL-2A typical L-mode  $R_s L^{-1} \approx 40$

- $f \sim 80\text{kHz}$ ,  $m \sim 10^{-33}$

HL-2A typical L-mode  $R_0 L_T^{-1} < 40$ ,  
 typical H-mode  $R_0 L_T^{-1} > 80$

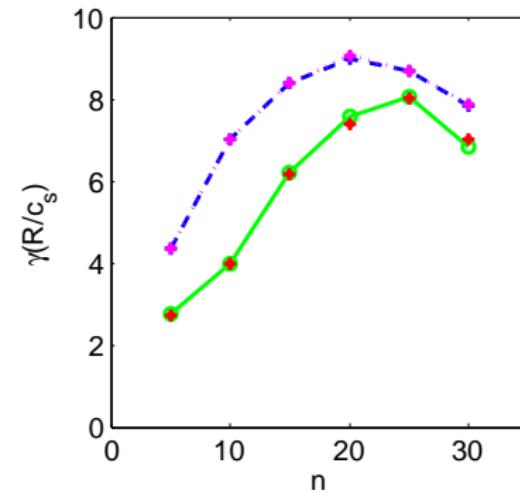
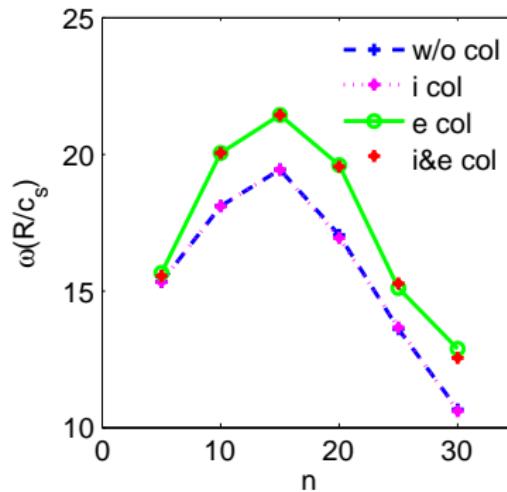


$$B_0 = 1.35 T, a = 40 \text{ cm}, R_0 = 165 \text{ cm}, q = 2.5 - 3.0, s = 0.3 - 1.0, \\ R_0/L_T = 80 - 160, T_e(r) = T_i(r), n_e(r) = n_i(r), \eta = L_n/L_T \simeq 1.0.$$

## Linear results and eigen theory

## 2. Linear results and eigen theory

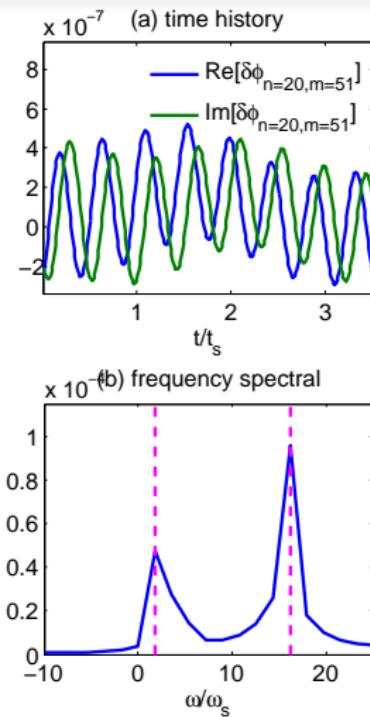
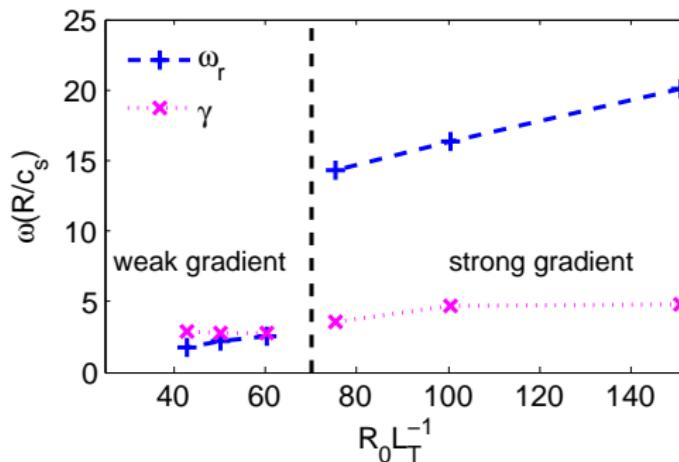
Scanning of  $n$ ,  $\gamma^{\max}$ :  $n \simeq 25 \rightarrow m \simeq nq \simeq 60 \gg m^{\text{exp.}} \simeq 10 - 33 \Rightarrow \text{nonlinear required}$  (later)



- Adiabatic electron: no instability  $\rightarrow$  not ITG
  - Kinetic electron: unstable, electron diamagnetic direction  $\rightarrow$  TEM
  - Collision: e col. small damping  $\rightarrow$  CTEM not DTEM

## Two Trapped Electron Mode (TEM) branches

$n = 20$ ,  $T_e = 200\text{eV}$  (Right figure:  $R/L_T = 75$ )



Most unstable micro-instabilities under weak and strong gradients are in different branches: (H)  $\omega_r > 10\omega_s$ ,  $\omega_r \gg \gamma$ ; (L)  $\omega_r < 3\omega_s$ ,  $\omega_r < \gamma$ .

## Linear results and eigen theory

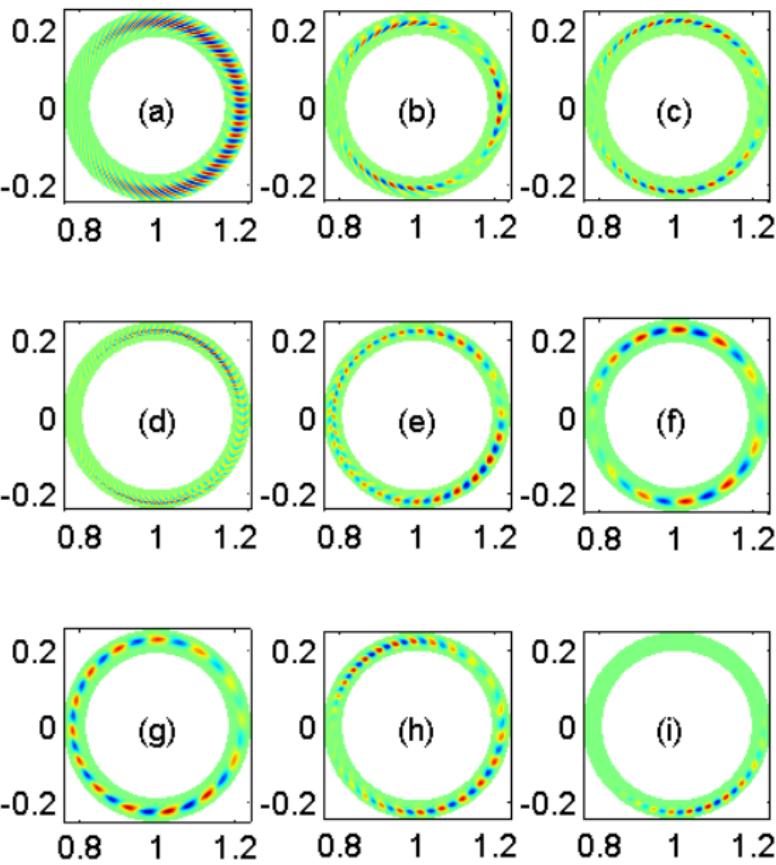
## Various mode structures

### Single- $n$ ( $n = 5 - 30$ )

- (a) weak gradient L-mode parameter gives conventional ballooning structures ▶ appendix of TEM in GTC simulation
  - (b)-(i) strong gradient H-mode parameters give unconventional structures of TEM.

## Mostly unexpected:

- a. **anti-ballooning**,  
 $|\theta_p| > \pi/2$
  - b. **multi-peak**

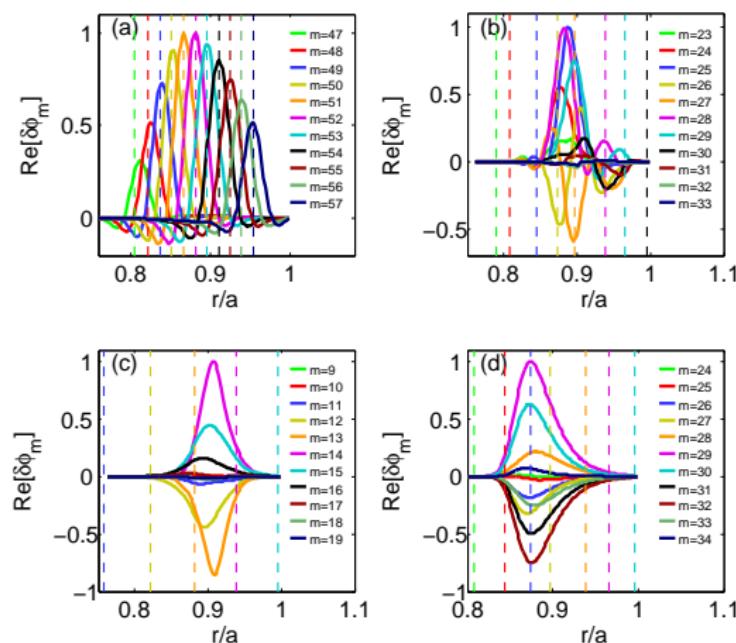


00000

## Fourier components $\delta\phi_m(r)$ of TEM

$$\delta\phi(r, \theta, \zeta) = e^{in\zeta} \sum_m \delta\phi_m(r) e^{-im\theta}$$

Corresponding poloidal cross section mode structures of (a)-(d) are taken from previous (a), (b), (g) and (i), respectively.



- Unconventional mode structures (especially anti-ballooning,  $u_m \simeq -u_{m+1}$ , i.e., a  $180^\circ$  phase shift for neighboring Fourier) can **reduce the effective correlation length**. We can expect that **H-mode can have better confinement**.

Strong gradient  $k_{\parallel} \propto |nq - m| > 1 \neq 0$

# Model linear theory

- **Model** eigenmode equation for unconventional structure of drift wave

$$\left[ \rho_i^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\sigma^2}{\omega^2} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} + ik_\theta s x \right)^2 - \frac{2\epsilon_n}{\omega} \left( \cos \theta + \frac{i \sin \theta}{k_\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) - \frac{\omega-1}{\omega+\eta_s} - k_\theta^2 \rho_i^2 \right] \delta\phi(x, \theta) = 0, \quad (1)$$

$\sigma = \epsilon_n / (q k_\theta \rho_i)$ ,  $\eta_s = 1 + \eta_i$ ,  $x = r - r_s$ , poloidal wave number  $k_\theta = nq/r$

- **1D:** Corresponding 1D equation in ballooning space (normalization:  $\omega_{*e}$ )

$$\left\{ \frac{\sigma^2}{\omega^2} \frac{d^2}{d\vartheta^2} + k_\theta^2 \rho_i^2 [1 + s^2(\vartheta - \vartheta_k)^2] + \frac{2\epsilon_n}{\omega} [\cos \vartheta + s(\vartheta - \vartheta_k) \sin \vartheta] + \frac{\omega-1}{\omega+\eta_s} \right\} \delta\hat{\phi}(\vartheta, \vartheta_k) = 0, \quad (2)$$

/: 'quanta' number

$\vartheta_k$  ballooning-angle parameter.

- Approximate to Weber equation  $u'' + (bx^2 + a)u = 0$ , eigenvalues  $a(\omega) = i(2l+1)\sqrt{b(\omega)}$ , eigenfunctions  $u(x) = H_l(i\sqrt{bx})e^{-ibx^2/2}$ ,  $H_l$  is  $l$ -th Hermite polynomial ( $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ), **series eigenstates**.

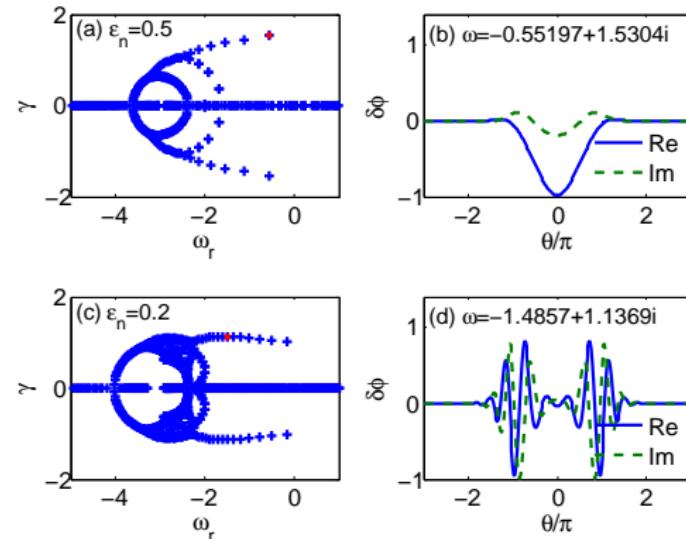
Linear results and eigen theory

# 1D eigen solutions to drift instability

- Weak gradient  
 $(\epsilon_n \equiv L_n/R = 0.5)$ , most unstable solution ground state (a&b), conventional structure.
- Strong gradient ( $\epsilon_n = 0.2$ ), most unstable solution not ground state (c&d), unconventional.
- Condition  $\epsilon_n < \epsilon_c$ , critical gradient parameter  $\epsilon_c$  depends on other parameters.

Xie&Xiao, Phys. Plasmas, 22, 090703 (2015).

Solved by companion matrix method  
appendix **⇒ All solutions.**



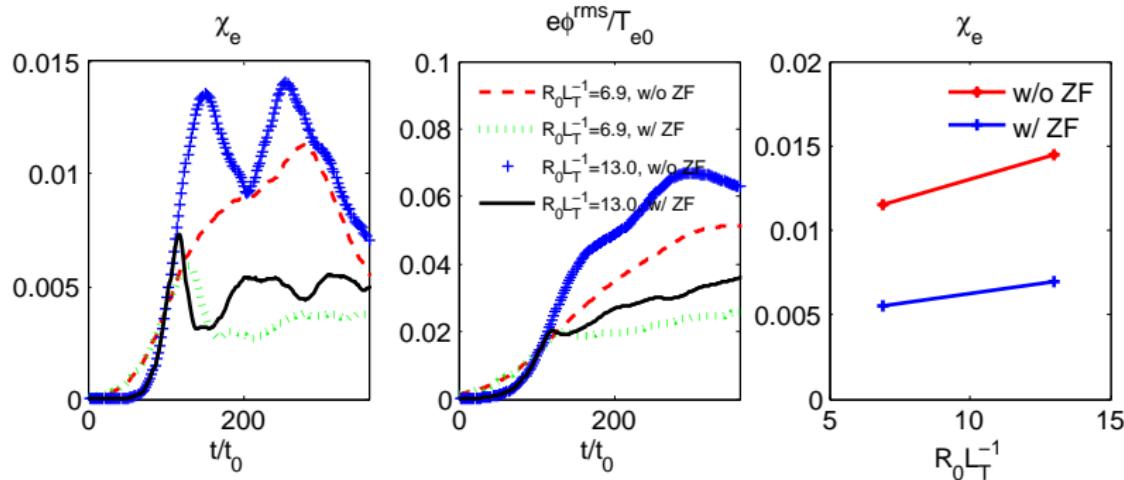
Eq.(2), series solutions exist. ( $s = 0.8$ ,  $k_\theta \rho_i = 0.4$ ,  $q = 1.0$ ,  $\eta_s = 3.0$  and  $\vartheta_k = 0$ )

**Linear: Eigenstates jump!!!**

## Nonlinear results

### 3. Nonlinear results: normal turbulent transport understandings in L-mode/weak gradient

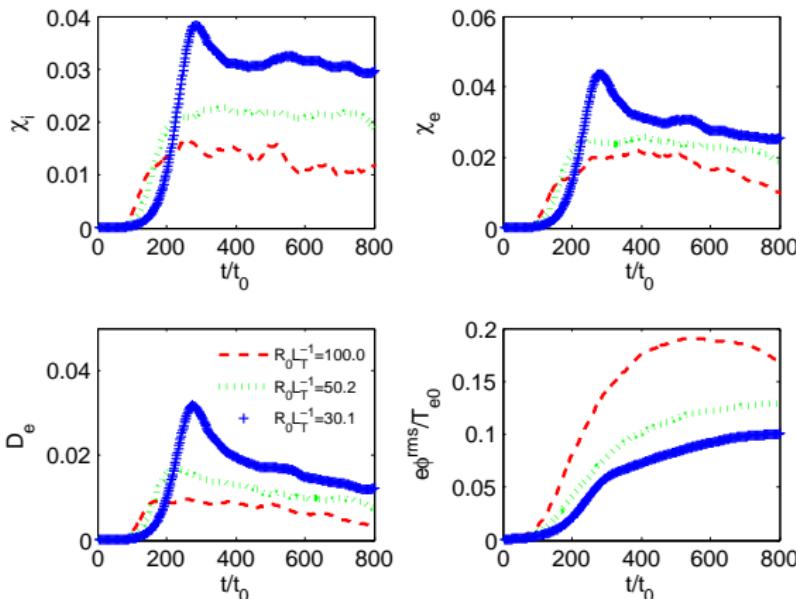
Agree with usual understandings / theoretical models slide 11



- Stronger gradients in L-mode stage give larger transport coefficients
- Zonal flow can reduce the transport coefficients significantly

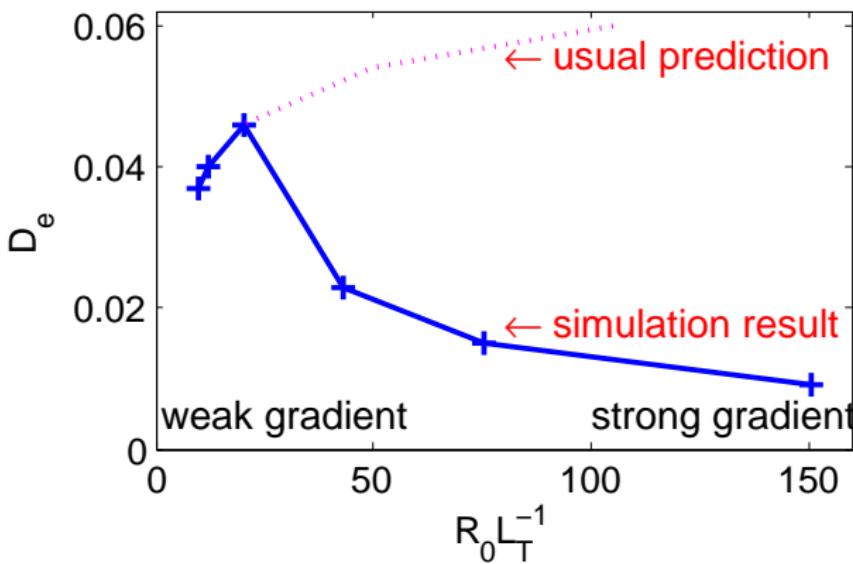
# Reverse trend of turbulent transport: H-mode/strong gradient

heat conductivity  $\chi_j$ , particle diffusivity  $D_j$



Stronger gradients in H-mode stage give **smaller (!!)** transport coefficients of particles and energy, though the root mean square of e.s. potential still higher.

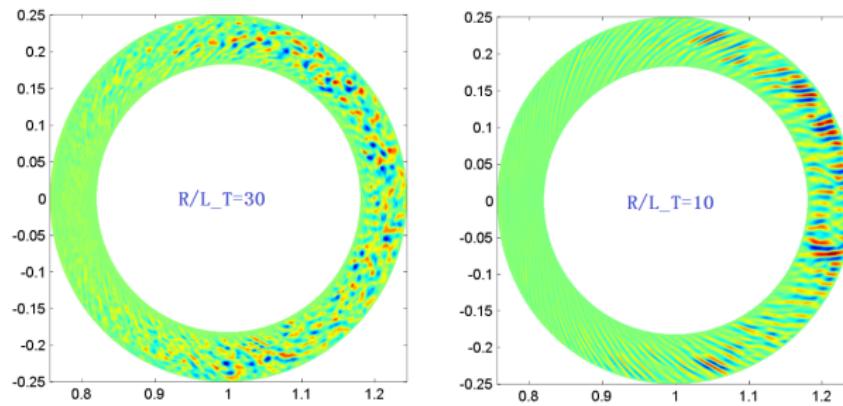
# Nonlinear critical gradient exist



A turning point (**critical gradient**) exists for the reverse trend of the transport coefficients.

# Eddy sizes - correlation length

Estimate the radial correlation length  $l_c$  from the eddy size.



**Strong gradient ( $R_0 L_T^{-1} = 30$ ) small eddy size.** Weak gradient ( $R_0 L_T^{-1} = 10$ ) large eddy size. Assume correlation time  $\tau_c$  not change too much →  $D \sim l_c^2 / \tau_c \propto l_c^2 \rightarrow D \downarrow$ .

**Why** stronger gradient has a small eddy size? The **unconventional mode structures!!**

# Discussions

- Strong gradient (H-mode) eigen state  $I \neq 0$  v.s. weak gradient (L-mode)  $I = 0$ , indicate different transport behaviors between H-mode and L-mode.
- Unconventional mode structures can reduce the effective correlation length. We can expect that **H-mode can have better confinement**.
- Nonlinear simulations confirm that the **transport coefficients decrease** with gradient increasing.

Thus ...

▶ see diagram

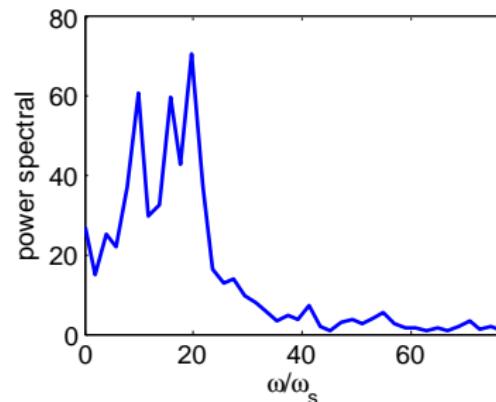
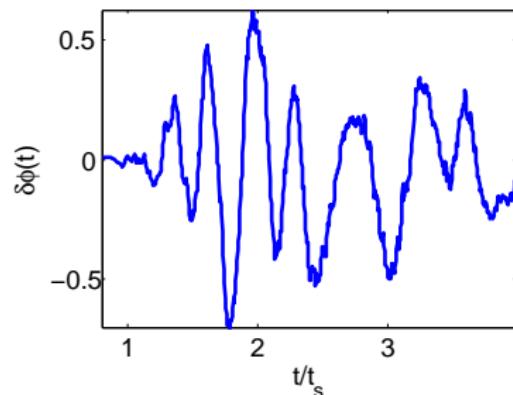
Provides some hints to L-H transition and H-mode transport mechanism by first-principle gyrokinetic simulations.

$$L \rightleftharpoons H$$

Eigenstates jump ! vs. ‘phase’ transition ?

# Nonlinear frequency

Diagnose at a fixed point ( $r = r_c, \theta = \pi/2, \zeta = 0$ ),  $\omega \simeq 16\omega_s$



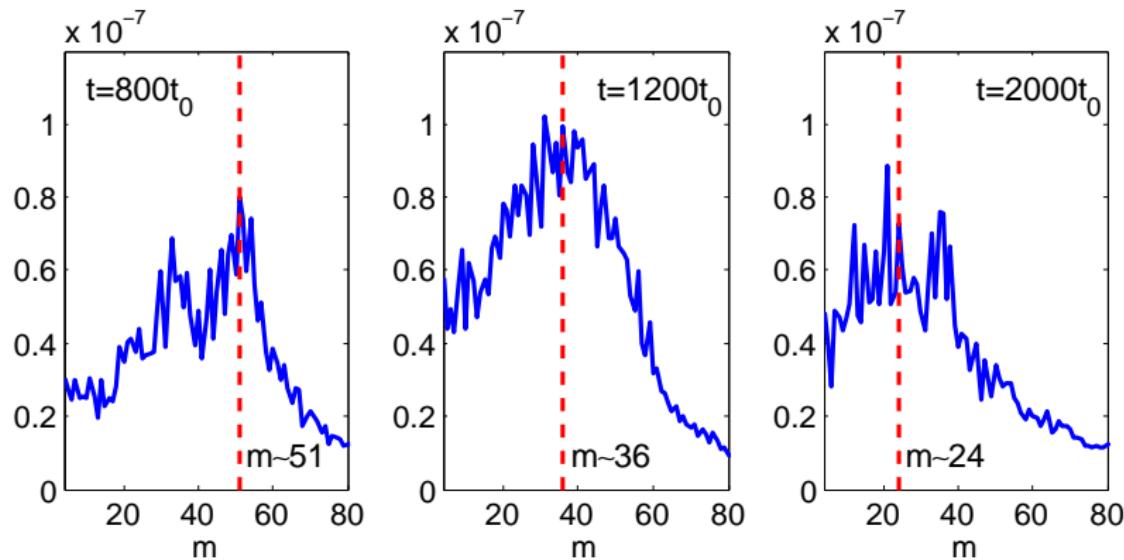
if  $T_e \simeq 50eV \Rightarrow f^{sim.} \simeq 78kHz + f^{doppler}$ , if  $|f^{doppler}| < 10kHz$   
 $\Rightarrow f^{sim.} \simeq f^{exp.} \simeq 80kHz$ .

Nonlinear frequency agrees exp. !!

Nonlinear results

# Nonlinear evolutions of the poloidal spectral

$m^{sim.} \simeq 10 - 40$  vs.  $m^{exp.} \simeq 10 - 33$ , nonlinear poloidal **spectral agrees exp. !!**

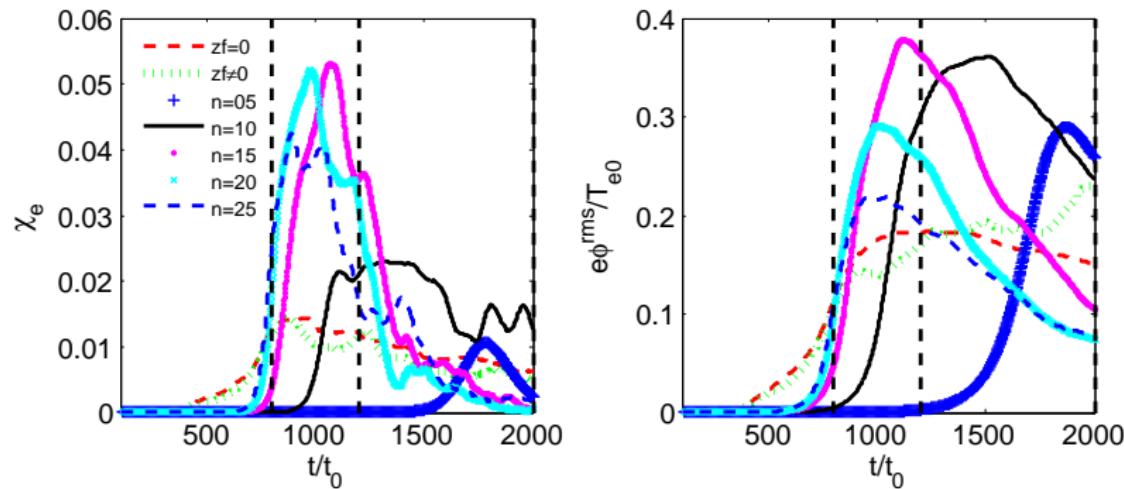


Reverse cascading from high to low  $m$  mode number.

Nonlinear results

# Mode coupling and zonal flow are less important in strong gradient

multi- $n$  (w/ & w/o zonal flow) vs. single- $n$



$t = 800t_0$ , dominate is  $n \simeq 20 - 25$  gives  $m \simeq nq \simeq 57$ ;  $t = 1200t_0$ ,  $n \simeq 15$  gives  $m \simeq nq \simeq 40$ ;  $t = 2000t_0$ ,  $n \simeq 10$  gives  $m \simeq nq \simeq 26$ .

Close to multi- $n$  (previous slide) results, reveal **multi-mode-coupling not important for  $m$  downshift as in L-mode** [e.g., Wang07, Lang08].

### III. Electromagnetic Physics (Preliminary)

## 1. Global ideal ballooning mode

AMC<sup>1</sup> code solves the linear ideal MHD vorticity equation (shear Alfvén law)

$$\underbrace{\nabla \cdot \left( \frac{\omega^2}{v_A^2} \nabla_{\perp} \delta \phi \right) + \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \left( \frac{1}{B^2} \nabla \cdot B^2 \nabla_{\perp} Q \right)}_{\text{inertial}} - \underbrace{\nabla \cdot \left( \frac{J_{\parallel}}{B} \right) \cdot (\nabla Q \times \mathbf{B})}_{\text{kink / parallel equilibrium current}} + 2 \underbrace{\frac{\kappa \cdot (\mathbf{B} \times \nabla \delta P)}{B^2}}_{\text{ballooning}} = 0, \quad (3)$$

$$\kappa = \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{b}, Q = (\mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \delta\phi)/B, \delta P = (\mathbf{b} \times \nabla \delta\phi \cdot \nabla P)/B, J_{\parallel} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{B}.$$

Shifted circular geometry. Second order for  $\epsilon = r/R \ll 1$ ,  $\beta \sim O(\epsilon^2)$ .

**Terms separated well, good for theoretical study.**

We solve below coupled equation

$\delta\phi = \sum \delta\phi_m(r) \exp(in\zeta - im\theta)$ , expanding Eq.(3) to  $O(\epsilon^2)$ , to a coupled equation

$$L_{m,m-1}\delta\phi_{m-1} + L_{m,m}\delta\phi_m + L_{m,m+1}\delta\phi_{m+1} = 0, \quad (4)$$

$$L_{m,m} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[ \frac{(1+4\epsilon\Delta')}{v_A^2} \bar{\omega}^2 - k_m^2 - c_s^2 \right] r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + (k_m^2)' - \frac{m^2}{r} \left\{ \frac{[1-4\epsilon(\epsilon+\Delta')]}{v_A^2} \bar{\omega}^2 - k_m^2 - c_s^2 - \bar{\kappa}_r \alpha / q^2 \right\}, \quad (5)$$

$$L_{m,m\pm 1} = \bar{\omega}^2 \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \frac{(2\epsilon + \Delta')}{v_A^2} r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} - \frac{(\epsilon - \Delta')}{v_A^2} \frac{m(m \pm 1)}{r} \right. \\ \left. \mp \frac{[\epsilon + (r\Delta')']}{v_A^2} m \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right\} - \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} r \Delta' k_m k_{m\pm 1} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} - \right. \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{m^2}{r}(\epsilon + \Delta')k_m k_{m\pm 1} \mp m[\epsilon + (r\Delta')']k_m k_{m\pm 1}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\Big\} - \frac{m\alpha}{2q^2}\left(\frac{m}{r} \mp \frac{\partial}{\partial r}\right).$$

$$\bar{\omega} = \omega / (V_A / R_0), \quad V_A = \langle v_A(r, \theta) \rangle, \quad k_m = (n - m/q).$$

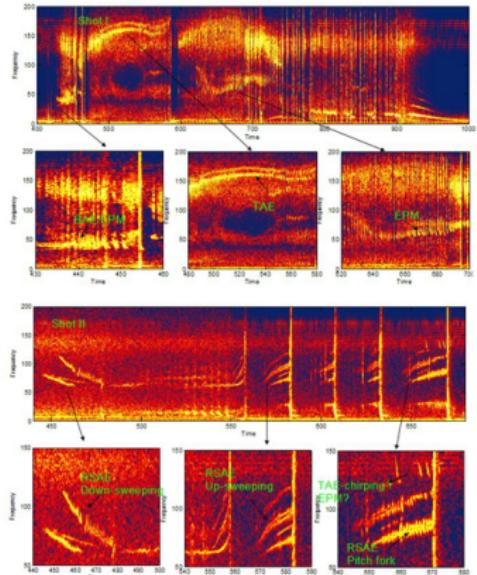
$$\mathbf{AX} = \lambda \mathbf{BX}, \omega^2 = \lambda, \mathbf{X} = [\dots, \delta\phi_{m-1}, \delta\phi_m, \delta\phi_{m+1}, \dots]^T. \Rightarrow \text{All solutions.}$$

Successfully applied to experiments for AEs

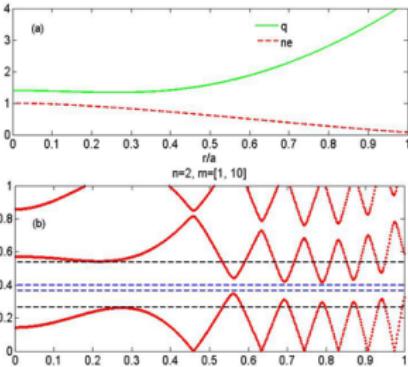
AMC frequencies and RSAE sweeping agree with HL-2A experiment.

HL-2A实验进展

From W. Chen,  
Dec. 2013



HL-2A装置上典型的快离子不稳定性(TAE, BAE, RSAE和EPM等)。图中频率和时间单位分别为kHz和ms, 谱图为磁探针信号时频谱。

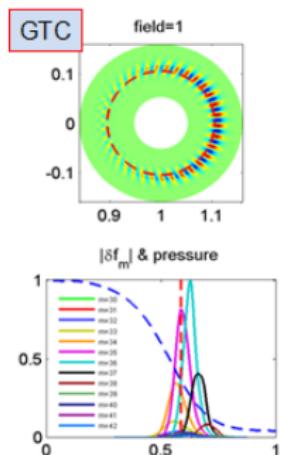


Others: [1] EPL, 107, 25001 (2014); [2] Chen et al, 2015 (submitted); [3] Also J-TEXT (HUST) and SUNIST (Tsinghua).

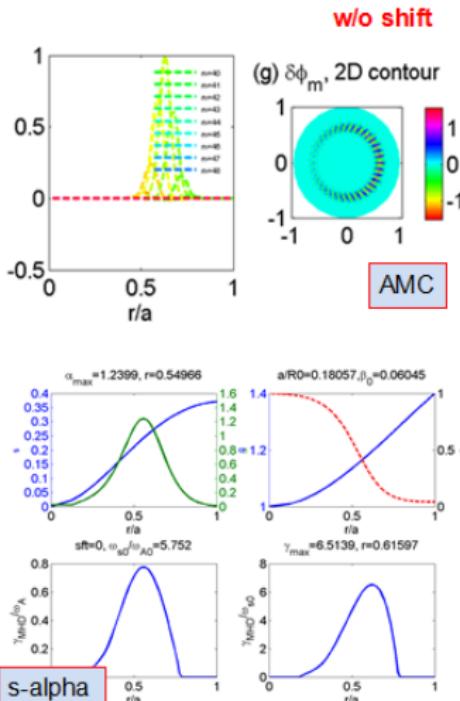
## IBM: first step to KBM

## Ideal Ballooning

	gamma	r/a (position)
s-alpha, n->infinity	6.51	0.62
gtc, n=30	6.7	0.60
amc-reduce, n=30	5.75	0.63



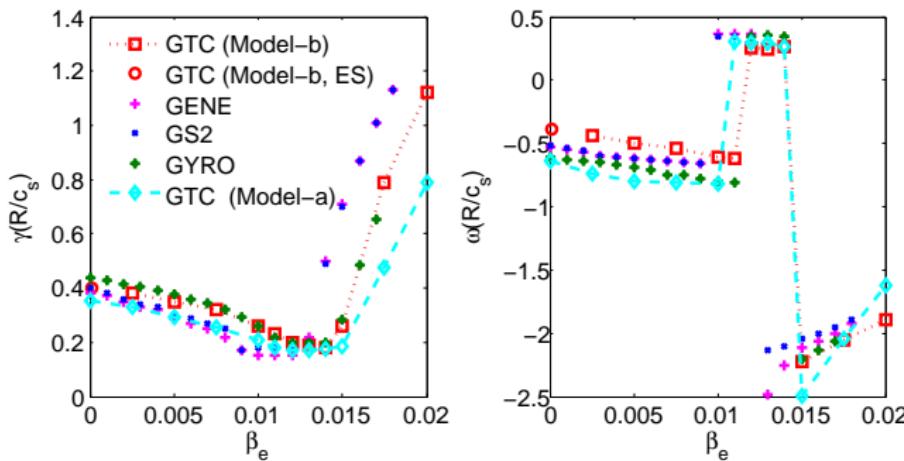
well agree



IBM benchmark: AMC, local  $s\text{-}\alpha$ , GTC. Well agree  $\Rightarrow$  linear IBM has been well understood.

## 2. Global kinetic ballooning mode

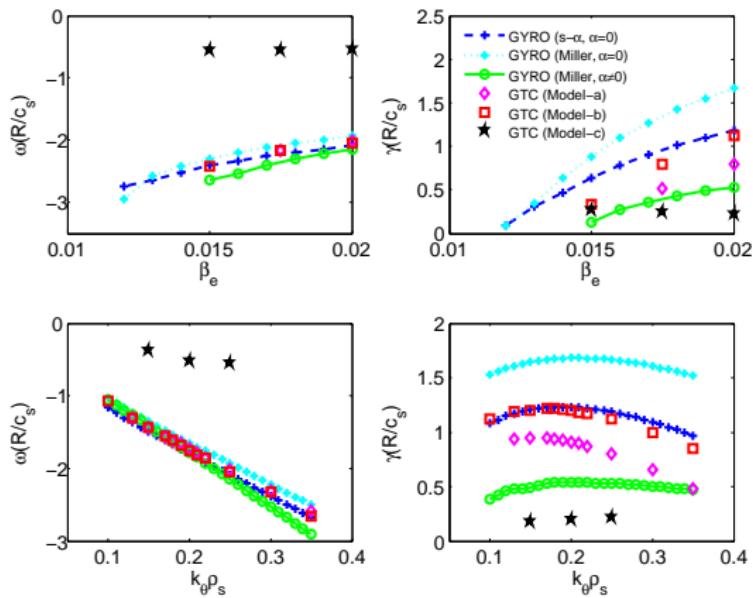
$\beta$  increasing (Cyclone parameters): ITG  $\rightarrow$  TEM  $\rightarrow$  KBM



**Equilibrium implementations** do not affect ITG and TEM significantly, but affect the KBM branch significantly.

## Different equilibrium implementations

Model-a:  $\theta = \theta_s$ . Model-b:  $\Delta = 0$ ,  $\theta = \theta_s - \epsilon \sin \theta_s$ . Model-c:  $\Delta \neq 0$ ,  $\theta = \theta_s - (\epsilon + \Delta') \sin \theta_s$ . (GYRO data from E. A. Belli)



⇒ **Accurate global equilibrium model would be crucial** (especially, global Shafranov shift included) to validate experiments with the gyrokinetic simulation.

#### IV. Summary & Future works

## Summary: Turbulent transport in L vs. H

Different transport behavior between H-mode and L-mode

	new understandings (strong gradient)	conventional understandings (weak gradient)
linear	series eigenstates non-ground state	one eigenstate ground state
zonal flow	less important	very important
mode-coupling	less important	important
$\nabla T \uparrow$	$\chi_j$ or $D_j \downarrow$	$\chi_j$ or $D_j \uparrow$

Novel linear and nonlinear physics in H-mode strong gradient, **limits the scope of the conventional understandings** of the turbulent transport in L-mode.

## Compare: experiment, theory and simulation

"Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." – Carl Sagan

## How much confidence?

1. Exp. and simulation under weak and strong gradient are both low and high frequency (i.e., **eigenstates jump**), respectively. Mode numbers and frequencies agree **quantitatively**. Eigen theory agree **qualitatively**. Global quantitatively eigen theory is very complicated and is under development.
  2. The **transport turning point** under strong gradient simulations of course exist in experiment which leads H-mode. The quantitatively comparing is much difficult due to that many other factors should be involved.
  3. The less importance of **zonal flow** has also been found in some recent experiments (Kobayashi2013PRL), which can reasonably be understood from unconventional mode structures.
  4. The less importance of **mode coupling** requires further evidences to be confirmed.

## Summary: EM

1. A new fast and easy used global eigen code **AMC** is developed to study AEs and IBM, which has also been succeed used for domestic experiments.
  2. Showing that the **equilibrium implementation** is crucial to validate experiments with the gyrokinetic KBM simulation.
  3. Some yet unsolved linear & nl issues for KBM simulations are examined and listed. (appendix)

## Future works

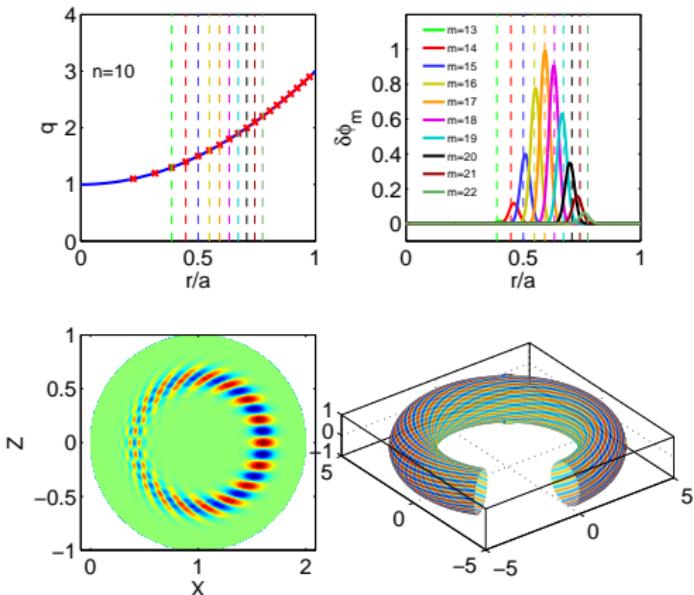
1. Developing the **quantitatively eigen theory**. Giving more comprehensive physical pictures.
  2. Further checking the **nonlinear results**.
  3. **Electromagnetic** studies are still challenged. Solutions are required.

Thank you!

## Conventional ballooning structure

$$\delta\phi(r, \theta, \zeta, t) = e^{-i(n\zeta - \omega t)} \sum_m \hat{\delta\phi}_m(r) e^{im\theta}$$

► back to GTC TEM



$$nq(r_m) = m, \quad k_{\parallel} = (nq - m)/R_0 \simeq 0, \quad \delta\hat{\phi}_m(r - r_m) \simeq \delta\hat{\phi}_{m+1}(r - r_{m+1}),$$

$$\delta\hat{\phi}_m(r) = A(r) \exp[-(r - r_m)^2/\Delta r_c^2], \quad A(r) = \exp[-(r - r_c)^2/\Delta A^2]$$

# Companion matrix method to solve eigenvalue problem

Discrete forms of Eqs.(1) and (2) [▶ back](#) can be written as

$$(\mathbf{M}_0 + \omega \mathbf{M}_1 + \omega^2 \mathbf{M}_2 + \omega^3 \mathbf{M}_3) \cdot \mathbf{X} = 0. \quad (7)$$

Using the transformation

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}_1 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \omega \mathbf{X}_1 = \mathbf{X}_2 \\ \omega \mathbf{X}_2 = \mathbf{X}_3 \\ \omega \mathbf{M}_3 \mathbf{X}_3 = -\mathbf{M}_2 \mathbf{X}_3 - \mathbf{M}_1 \mathbf{X}_2 - \mathbf{M}_0 \mathbf{X}_1, \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

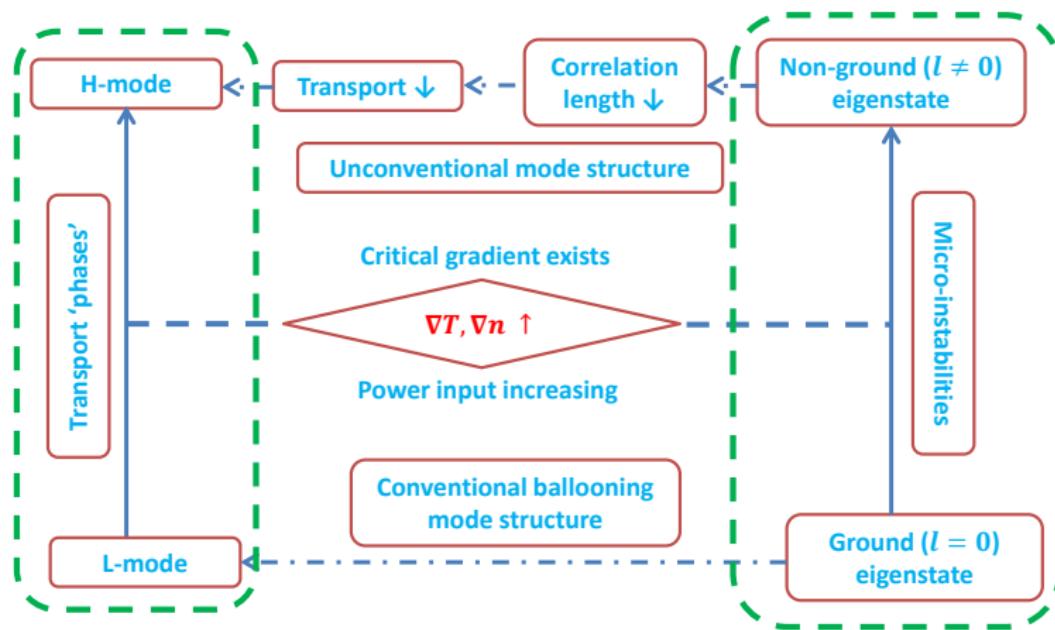
yields an equivalent standard matrix eigenvalue problem

$$\omega \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{M}_3 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}_1 \\ \mathbf{X}_2 \\ \mathbf{X}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} \\ -\mathbf{M}_0 & -\mathbf{M}_1 & -\mathbf{M}_2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}_1 \\ \mathbf{X}_2 \\ \mathbf{X}_3 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (9)$$

which can gives all solutions of the discrete system.

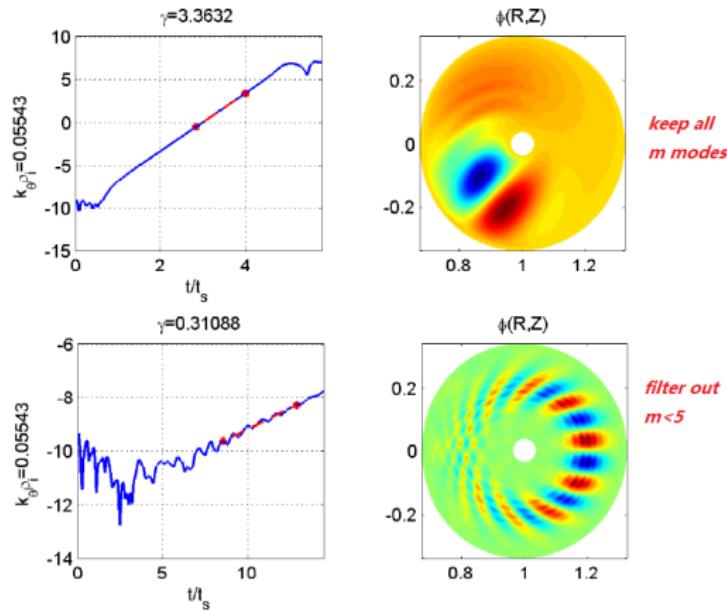
# Diagram for new picture of L-H transition

▶ back



# Numerical challenges for both linear and nonlinear

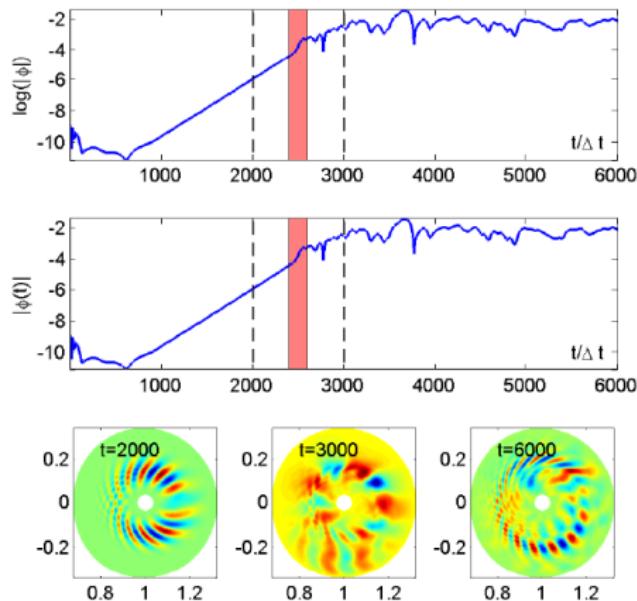
- Linear: growth rate (also frequency) jump ( $\gamma = 0.31 \rightarrow 3.4$ , similar, Wan12) at  $k_\theta \rho_i < 0.1$  ( $n = 10$ ,  $q = 1.4$ ), **reason(s) unknown**.



Gathering existing challenges should be very important for next step.

# A rare succeed nonlinear example

- Nonlinear: crash for most cases.



Although some successes have been obtained in this decade, the nonlinear (and even linear) gyrokinetic simulations of KBM are still challenged. Physics? Models? Numerical? ⇒ **In this work, we stop the E.M. studies here.**